

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. C.S.T., in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Also present were Auditor Kimberly K. Grow, Deputy Auditor Tina M. Porter, Highway Engineer / Supervisor Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney that represents the Commissioners, Eric J. Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Army Veteran Alan Walstra.

CLAIMS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket for the check dates equal to October 30, 2017 and October 13, 2017. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Culp stated that there was a minor correction to the minutes for the Regular October 2, 2017 meeting whereas Veterans Office was corrected to Veterans Council. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular October 2, 2017 meeting with the correction and the minutes for the Executive Session on October 16, 2017, as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the following buried cable request from Jasper County REMC. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Permit No. 746                      For the purpose of boring under the road for new service

Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the following buried cable request from NIPSCO. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Permit No. 745                      For the purpose of replacing a high-pressure gas line at County Road 700 West and Hodge Ditch.

PUBLIC HEARING / COUNTY ROAD 1200 NORTH: A public hearing was held at 8:15 A.M. for the purpose of establishing a maximum speed limit of Forty-five (45) miles per hour, Sec. 10.10.070 of Title 10: Vehicles and Traffic, of the said Code of Ordinances of Jasper County, Indiana on County Road 1200 North between DeMotte City limits and County Road 950 West. There was one comment from the audience. Mr. Butch Jeffries stated that it won't do any more good than changing the speed limit on Kniman Road (County Road 900 North) so the Commissioners might as well not change it. Mr. Culp replied that he will pass that statement along since that is a police issue. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

KYLER LAIRD / SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Mr. Laird was present and stated that, although the Soil & Water Board has not voted, he would like to request permission to hire Shelia Schroeder as Leslie Davisson's replacement. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request for Soil & Water to fill their vacancy. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

AWARDING OF AMBULANCE BID: Ambulance bids were opened during the October 2, 2017 meeting. The bids received were as follows: Elite Ambulance for a yearly subsidy of \$210,000.00 for one ambulance, Franciscan for a yearly subsidy of \$475,000.00 for two ambulances, Prompt for a two year subsidy of \$385,000.00 for two ambulances and Spirit for a yearly subsidy of \$250,000.00. All companies had representatives present except Spirit. The contract is currently being filled by Prompt.

The representative from Elite stated that they will have one ambulance dedicated to the County and one back-up ambulance at the hospital. Both would be fully staffed, ALS ambulances. They do not currently have a contract with Franciscan but are working towards securing one.

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

AWARDING OF AMBULANCE BID CONT'D: Mr. Culp stated that, if Elite had a contract with Franciscan at the time of the bid, it may shed a different light on things. The Commissioners like having an ambulance at the hospital. The Elite representative stated that they have been offered a room at the hospital for their staff. The hospital plans to make their decision in January. Elite is based in Hammond with stations in Hammond, Portage, South Bend and Rensselaer. Mr. Maxwell stated that he would like to see them connected with the hospital before we would consider their bid. The Elite representative said they signed a contract with Franciscan in Hammond, Munster and Dyer that started November 1, 2017. He said they are currently servicing the hospital in Rensselaer, taking care of all their transfers out of the emergency room, which was confirmed by Jason, one of the representatives present from Franciscan.

Mr. Culp stated that, last year when awarding the bid to Prompt, the Commissioners stated that they favored an association with the hospital. The County did receive a bid from the hospital; however, it was not competitive enough for the County to consider, although it may be a good possibility in the future as the County works together with the townships. He said the County needs to work towards a more permanent solution for ambulance service. There are opportunities and possibilities, but at this time, the County's options are limited.

Mr. Culp explained that, for the past approximately twelve years, the subsidies paid to Southern, Wheatfield and Keener were all different amounts. It was not specific on what services would be provided. The central bid provided advanced life support services, which meant not all citizens of Jasper County had access to advanced life support services. The Commissioners then decided to give the subsidy on a per capita basis. When that occurred, Keener Township said they would provide advanced life support services if they received the same subsidy as the central provider. Prompt submitted a lower bid than the current contract, which means the townships will get a lower subsidy although costs to provide the service are going up. The Commissioners' goal is to work to keep the townships going in a positive direction. They would like to put a committee together to look at long-term ambulance service. This committee would include people from the townships and emergency medical service providers, as well as one Commissioner. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to form a committee to look at the future of emergency medical services in Jasper County. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. The committee will be announced at the December or January meeting. Mr. Culp stated that they will be in contact with Mrs. Haberlin, Mr. Jeffries and Southern Ambulance.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to award the ambulance contract to Prompt for the next two years with a stipulation that the County will try to do something to help the townships during the second year of the contract. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MATTHEW THORNTON / EDP RENEWABLES / COUNTY ROAD 900 NORTH / (CORRECTED TO COUNTY ROAD 1900 SOUTH): Mr. Haberlin clarified that, due to an error on Google maps, the road is actually County Road 1900 South, not County Road 900 North. Mr. Thornton explained that they are developing a wind farm in Benton County. They will be coming north off of County Road 1100 East in Benton County. He believes they will be using County Road 380 West in Jasper County and then will turn on to County Road 1900 South, going west for two-thousand feet to deliver one turbine. This will occur between May and June of 2018. He said they've looked at the road and anticipate that it's in good enough condition to support the loads they will be bringing in. Mr. Maxwell informed him that the County will still require a bond or something to ensure the road does not sustain any damage. Mr. Thornton said they will also potentially be getting concrete from the batch plant in Remington. Mr. Maxwell said that he's been talking with Mr. Don Pampel at IMI Concrete about that part of the project. There was discussion about the amount of the bond that will be required. Mr. Haberlin stated that, usually, companies get a bond for \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Thornton stated that they are currently working on a road use agreement with Benton County and asked about the possibility of a joint agreement to include Jasper County. Mr. Maxwell declined, stating that the last joint agreement the County had did not work out. He suggested that Mr. Thornton talk to Mr. Pampel about the possibility of obtaining a joint bond on the roads. Mr. Maxwell would be agreeable to a joint bond, but not a joint agreement. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Thornton if they are also in White County. He replied that they own and operate all of the wind turbines in White County, which are part of the Meadowlake Project. Benton County is an expansion of Meadowlake.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

MATTHEW THORNTON / EDP RENEWABLES / COUNTY ROAD 900 NORTH / (CORRECTED TO COUNTY ROAD 1900 SOUTH) CONT'D: When asked if they have options for property in Jasper County, he replied that they do have options for turbines that have been in place for several years that will be expiring in a few years. He said they would like to discuss the ordinance that is in place. Mrs. Scheurich stated that the ordinance is on the schedule for the Plan Commission for November 28, 2017. It will then be coming before the Commissioners.

MATTHEW KLOK / EMCORE: Mr. Klok presented the Commissioners with the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract annual savings reports showing the savings for year one being \$50,556.00 and year two being \$54,579.00. Mr. Culp confirmed with Mr. Klok that most of the savings were realized due to switching from electric to gas. Mr. Klok requested the Commissioners signatures on the annual savings contracts and the addendums changing the scope and price and said he would submit them to the State for the County. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the annual guaranteed energy savings reports that have to be filed with the State. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JAIL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT: Mr. Zellman was present with Mr. Dumas, the senior account manager at their Indianapolis location that did the walk-through at the jail. Along with the technician, they came up with the final hours and costs to perform the services. Mr. Dumas explained that the updated quote is slightly different than the original proposal. They are now including belts and filters in the proposal. He told the Commissioners about Honeywell's service portal, where the County can create work orders. They use quantified hours that can be traded between mechanical, temperature control and automation. They use a tool that generates the number of hours it will take to service the equipment based on the exact information they enter about the equipment. Mr. Culp stated that the proposals were as follows: Emcore (Havel) \$11,912.00, Precision \$19,716 and Honeywell \$37,752. He said that he spoke with Sheriff Risner who said that they've had problems with Havel but is encouraged by their commitment to improve things and the cost difference is concerning to him. Mr. Culp also verified with maintenance who prefers that the County stay with Havel at the jail. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to stay with Havel. Mr. Walstra seconded. Mr. Zellman asked if the Commissioners have added up any additional service costs aside from the service contract that have been billed by Havel in prior years. The Havel representative said there have been no additional costs at the jail. Mr. Maxwell stated that his motion stands. Vote was taken and the motion carried.

CHIEF DEPUTY WILLIAMSON / SHERIFF'S CONTRACT: Chief Deputy Williamson presented Sheriff Risner's salary contract for approval. He stated that it's a one year contract for \$86,482.00, which is an increase from \$83,000.00 and is based on a statutory requirement. He said the Sheriff has not asked for a raise in three years. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the contract. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Chief Deputy Williamson stated that the 2011 Dodge Charger that they are sending to the auction is a four door, not a two door as listed on the website.

BILL WAKELAND: Mr. Wakeland stated that he attended a meeting with the Indiana Department of Corrections in August and was informed that the Department of Corrections is going to be hiring a person or a firm to conduct annual physical plant inspections of all work release facilities, which will be similar to the jail inspections. Currently, other Directors or Community Corrections agencies are allowed to perform the inspections with a Jail Inspector. The inspector will be looking at staffing to make sure there are at least two Correctional Officers on duty at all times and if the facility is meeting the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards, which requires that they have one male and one female officer on duty at all times. He said they currently only have six full-time officers, but need eight in order to meet that requirement. Mr. Wakeland requested hiring two officers and paying them out of the State Grant. However, the new application isn't out yet. They are also not allowed to give salary increases out of the state grant. With benefits, that would mean that the other two-thirds of health insurance would need to come out of County General or Project Income. The other restriction is that the salary plus benefits cannot exceed \$60,000.00. Mr. Wakeland stated that he would like to come to the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and he and the Commissioners can discuss it further.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

DAN FAGEN / JACK FAGEN / COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE: Mr. and Mr. Fagen were present. The Commissioners reviewed the available options for County health insurance. Mr. Walstra made a motion to proceed with Option 3 for the County's 2018 health insurance plan. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MIKE SPANGLER / LAKE AND PORTER COUNTY DETENTION CENTER CONTRACTS: Mr. Spangler stated that the contracts will be the same for 2018 as they were for 2017. Porter County is \$140.00 per day with two-hundred and fifty bed days. This is calculated at two beds per day at 125 days per bed. Lake County remains unchanged at one-hundred days and \$150.00 per day. He said we are nineteen bed days over in Lake County and almost fifty bed days over in Porter County. We carried over nineteen combined days from 2016. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Lake and Porter County detention contracts. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

EDWIN BUSWELL/ WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION GRANT: Mr. Buswell was present, along with Mr. Boersma and Officer Eric Kidwell. Mr. Buswell stated that he's been working with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Public Facilities Program to apply for a grant to build a new fire station. Due to OCRA requirements, the County would have to be the applicant with the Township being the sub-recipient. The proposal is due December 1<sup>st</sup> and the application is due Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Boersma stated that they are working with Sebree Architects out of Indianapolis. They are looking at a seven thousand square foot floor space that will include three drive-through bays for fire apparatuses and lockers and restrooms for the firemen that will be separate from the rest of the building. There will also be a two-thousand square foot community center with a small kitchen, public restrooms and storage as well as administrative offices for the Township Trustee. The construction will probably be split-face block, load bearing concrete walls with heated concrete floors in the fire bays. The community center will be available to the public to rent. The facility will be handicap accessible. The property, which has been purchased and paid for, is located on State Road 10, to the immediate north of Prairie Ridge subdivision. The State Highway Department has informed them that they do not want a separate entrance on to State Road 10. They did ask the State about installing a stop light. This new facility would eliminate the need to rent space in Kersey. Mr. Boersma said that, in order to get the ladder truck in the building in Wheatfield, they had to grind the concrete down. The ladder truck will be brought to the new facility, but they will keep the Wheatfield location to house brush trucks and a pumper. Mr. Buswell stated that there will be a Public Hearing held Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Emergency Medical Services building at the corner of State Road 49 and Grove Street in Wheatfield. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the signing of four documents necessary to proceed with the grant proposal and application. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Boersma stated that an article was published in the newspaper informing residents in three townships that the firemen will be going door-to-door asking questions for an income study.

STACE PICKERING / PARKS FOR PEOPLE CAMPAIGN: Mr. Pickering brought a video presentation explaining the Parks for People campaign. The three main parts of the fundraiser are the dog park, the Staddon-Monnett area and the Brookside improvements. The City Council has approved the use of the land for the dog park. Details are available on [parksforpeoplecampaign.com](http://parksforpeoplecampaign.com). The campaign will go until February 1, 2018.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT / MICHELE TAYLOR / NANCY BAILEY: Mrs. Taylor stated that the Health Department was informed that, as of December 28, 2017, Franciscan Health Rensselaer Laboratory will no longer offer commercial or public water testing services. Franciscan provided the Health Department with a list of all companies and public utilities in the area that provide testing. She has made contact with Utility Services in Valparaiso since they are the closest. Utility Services has requested that the Health Department get approval from the Commissioners for a line of credit. When asked by Mr. Culp how many water samples they have per year, Mrs. Taylor replied that one year she may not have any, but could have twenty another year. The water sample has to be driven to the lab. The Health Department will have water sample bottles on hand that residents can pick up, but they will then need to drive the sample to Valparaiso. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to establish credit with Valparaiso Utility Services for the purpose of water testing in Jasper County. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

RICHELLE WINSTEAD / JCEDO: Mrs. Winstead introduced Stephen W. Eastridge, the new LEDO that started November 1, 2017.

MARY SCHEURICH / GOV PAY NET CREDIT CARD PROCESSING: Mrs. Scheurich was present and stated that she would like to start taking credit and debit cards in her office. Currently, the Clerk, Treasurer, Recorder and Sheriff's Department all take card payments. The processing company charges a small fee to the cardholder with each transaction and there is no charge to the County. Mr. Culp asked Attorney Beaver if the County should have a use policy. Attorney Beaver explained that the vendor has an online or swipe option. The information will be transmitted through, but not stored on the County's computers. He thinks there should be some type of safeguards so the employee is trained and aware of how they are supposed to process these transactions. The contract puts obligation on the County to do as the vendor requires. He said he believes that there are three separate contracts with the same company. He reviewed the contract for Planning and Development and did not find anything that was questionable. Mr. Haberlin said that he would like for Planning and Development to be able to take payments for driveway permits in their office. Mr. Culp suggested that we find out if there are other departments that would like to be included and put this on the December agenda. We can look at a January 1, 2018 implementation. Attorney Beaver said he will send out an email asking if other offices are interested.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE / JASPER COUNTY CODE: Attorney Beaver stated that he submitted a formal response to the Department of Justice and has not received a response from them. He said that he still needs to review the existing code prior to the Employee Handbook. Code Publishing Company in Seattle has completed the online code and it's available via Google. When completed, a final ordinance will need to be passed by the Commissioners to accept the Code. At that time, the company will mail hard copies that will be available to department heads.

CITIZEN HANS MARKLAND: Mr. Markland was present to request that the Commissioners enforce the Judge's conclusion in Cause Number 37D01-1107-PL-0622, where the Court vacated the Board of Zoning and Appeals order granting the special exception. He said that the Commissioners have done nothing about it in four years and he thinks they make a mockery of the judicial system. He said he wants this entered in to the minutes. Also, he stated that there are trees and brush that are obstructing County roadways in Walker Township. This makes it difficult and hazardous to move farm machinery, sometimes causing damage to vehicles and equipment. He requested that the trees and brush be cut back at least three feet. The roadways that need attention are as follows: County Road 900 North from Route 49 to County Road 300 West, County Road 850 North from County Road 300 East to the Pulaski County line, County Road 100 East from County Road 1000 North to County Road 1100 North, County Road 300 East from County Road 900 North to County Road 1100 North, County Road 100 West from County Road 900 North to County Road 1000 North. Mr. Culp told Mr. Markland that the list of roads will be turned over to the district men.

COMPENSATION TIME EXTENSION REQUEST: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve a compensation time extension request from Patrick Donnelly, Veterans Service Officer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

TRAINING REQUESTS: Beth Warren, Recorder requested permission for herself and Deputy Karen Wenrick to attend the Fidler user group meeting in Kokomo on Wednesday, November 8, 2017. They will provide lunch and the County car will be used, if available. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Kimberly Grow, Auditor, requested permission for herself and Deputy Linda Armstrong to attend Department of Local Government Finance training for Gateway on November 9, 2017 in Morocco. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PICTOMETRY CONTRACT: It was determined that the Commissioners have already signed the contract. Attorney Beaver is waiting on a signed copy from Pictometry.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

VENDING MACHINE / CL VENDING: Mrs. Porter presented a packet to the Commissioners from CL Vending. CL will decide what snack items are put in the vending machine based on what's on sale or what's popular; however, if we choose to get a pop machine, the County can choose the pop selections. If there are certain snack items that we don't want, we can let them know that as well. We have to sell a minimum amount of product within a twelve month time period; that amount to be determined by the route and operations managers. CL Vending's machines have the capability to accept cashless payments through their app called USConnect. They also offer different promotions such as buy four items, get one item free. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to move forward with CL Vending. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, this meeting now stands in recess.

---

Kendell Culp, President

---

James A. Walstra, Vice President

---

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

---

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County